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**Bronze Medallion Portrait of Dr. Gray.**—We present on the preceeding page, from *Science*, an engraving of an admirable bronze medallion of Dr. Asa Gray, by Saint Gaudens, a gift to Harvard College from some of the doctor's friends and associates.

"It is an excellent likeness of our distinguished botanist, and a fine specimen of the artist's peculiar work. It has the earnestness and geniality of expression which the passing years seem to impress more forcibly upon Dr. Gray's countenance; and the artist has so wrought the stubborn material as to impart grace and apparent flexibility to the flowing locks. This admirable work of art, representing, as it does, in so thoroughly an artistic manner, one of the leading scientific men of America, will be worthily placed upon the walls of the college halls, with which his name and fame will be forever associated."

**Sabal umbraculifera.**—In Notes on the Winter Flora of Bermuda (Vol. xii., p. 47) I notice Mr. Kemp gives *Sabal umbraculifera* as one of the distinguishing features of the flora of Bermuda. As this palm is a native of the hottest parts of Jamaica (Lat. N., 18), I was much surprised to find it naturalized so far north as Bermuda (Lat. N., 32). On turning, however, to the Botany of Bermuda, by General Sir John H. Lefroy, I find he gives *Sabal Palmetto*, the palmetto of the Southern States, as the universal palm of Bermuda, and does not mention *S. umbraculifera* at all. Hence I think Mr. Kemp has by inadvertence given the latter for the former palm. This is an important point in geographical botany, for it would have been a singular instance of the hardihood of a plant which here lives under all the conditions of a coco-nut palm, but said to flourish and become universal when the latter had only a struggling existence.

Gordon Town, Jamaica.

D. MORRIS.

**Kalmia as a Tonic.**—I note in the BULLETIN for May, 1885, the mention of *Kalmia angustifolia* being used as a tonic by Indians. Why not, even if it possesses the poisonous properties of its congener *K. latifolia*—which it most assuredly does—as far North as Nova Scotia? It kills lambs in the spring there, when but little other herbage has commenced growth, hence its name "lamb-kill." This I have verified by three years observation in that country. But why surprise should be excited at its use as a tonic I am at a loss to imagine, when some of our best tonics contain arsenic and nux vomica.

Gordon Town, Jamaica.

J. HART.

(But arsenic and nux vomica are not remedies among the *Indians*, and we presume that the surprise of the author of the note alluded to was that a plant reputed as poisonous should be used by *them* as a tonic. Of course, among civilized peoples the selection of deadly drugs as remedies is of so common occurrence as to excite no comment.—ED.)

**The Word Savoyanne.**—In the article upon *Coptis*, in the Drugs and Medicines of North America, the editors say: "In French towns in Canada, we are informed by Dr. Mignault, it [*Coptis*]

is known among the people under the name of *savoyanne*, from some old plant of France. It is sold in all the French markets, and is extensively used in domestic medicine as a tonic and appetizer. Don Miller states that it is known as *tisavoyanne* by the Canadian French." In a foot-note, Dr. Chas. Rice says: "There is no doubt in my mind that the syllable 'savoyanne' is a dialectic adjective of the name of Savoy (once a French province.) . . . The syllable *ti* may be a patois for the name of the plant, or some other corruption. . . . It would be quite natural for persons who call madder the *red Savoy* 'ti' (whatever this may mean) to call gold-thread or *Coptis* the *yellow Savoy* 'ti'. The names were, of course, carried by settlers to Canada."

These conjectures fall very short of the mark. The Canad. Fr. *tisavoyanne* (abbreviated to *savoyanne*), far from being an importation from France, is of Indian origin, and corresponds to Micmac (Algonkin) *tissawéhianne*\*, 'skin-dye' (Cree *atisâweyân*), which, like Cree *atisigan*, Odjibway *adissigan*, Shawnee *hâthêthikâh†* (words meaning 'dye-stuff'), is from the root *ati*, 'to color.' These are general names for such plants as yield these tribes a dye-color.

Kalm tells us that the leaves and stalks of the *Coptis* were used by the Indians of Canada for giving a fine yellow color to several kinds of articles that they made of prepared skins. The French learned the plant's tinctorial property from the Indians, and used it for dyeing wool and other materials. Hence the Algonko-French name *tisavoyanne jaune*, in contradistinction to *tisavoyanne rouge*, a name for *Galium boreale*, L., and *G. trifidum*, L., var., *tinctorium*, Gray, the roots of which were (and are still) used by the Indians for staining their porcupine quills red, and by French women for dyeing their clothes.

I notice that *savoyan* appears in the catalogues of some of our dealers in herbs as a popular name for *Galium Aparine*, L. The name has been transferred from the two species of *Galium* just mentioned.

W. R. GERARD.

**The Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S.** will hold its meeting during the week August 26th to September 2d at Ann Arbor, Mich., as an adjunct of the American Association. Any member of the Association who takes an interest in botany is eligible to membership in the Club. The only other requirement is that of registration, which should be attended to immediately after registering for the Association. The Club is tendered an afternoon excursion by carriage to the most interesting collecting grounds in the vicinity. The long excursion on Saturday will be so managed that botanists can spend some time in herborizing. If a sufficient number desires it, a trip can be arranged at small expense to Cedar Lake, a few hours ride by rail from Ann Arbor, where there is one of the few remaining

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\* As written by French missionaries.

† These Indians speak with a lisp, a spirant *th* replacing the sibilant *s* of the other Algonkin dialects.